

Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEA-10 SAJ-01 IO-14 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

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R 251650Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHC 6878

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CONFIDENTIAL SAN JOSE 1606

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CS

SUBJECT: SEMINAR ON SOVIET JEWRY CONCLUDES

REF: SAN JOSE A-52

1. THE SUBJECT SEMINAR, CRITICAL OF THE USSR POLICY TOWARDS ITS JEWISH POPULATION AND SPONSORED BY THE CONFERENCE OF LATIN AMERICAN WOMEN, ENDED ON APRIL 21 WITH CONSIDERABLY MORE ATTENTION AMONG KNOWLEDGEABLE CIRCLES TO THE FIRWORKS GENERATED BETWEEN RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR KAZIMIROV AND DONA KAREN FIGUERES, THE PRESIDENT'S WIFE, THAN THE SUBSTANCE OF THE CONFERENCE. IF INTERESTING PAPERS ON THE TOPIC WERE PRESENTED THEY WERE NOT PRINTED IN ANY OF THE MEDIA. HOWEVER, THE ACTIVE SAN JOSE RUMOR MILL CHURNED OUT DETAILS, MANY AUTHENTICATED, OF THE FRICTION GENERATED BY SEMINAR BETWEEN DONA KAREN AND AMBASSADOR KAZIMIROV.

2. DONA KAREN WAS SCHEDULED TO DELIEVER OPENING REMARKS TO THE CONFERENCE. WHEN SHE FAILED TO APPEAR MANY OBSERVERS BELIEVED THAT AMBASSADOR KAZIMIROV'S FORMAL PROTESTATION HAD HAD ITS EFFECT AND SHE HAD WITHDRAWN HER ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT FOR THE SEMINAR. ANY THOUGHT

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OF THIS WAS BANISHED ON THE SECOND DAY WHEN

DONA KAREN NOT ONLY APPEARED BUT, FROM THAT POINT ON, PLAYED AN ACTIVE ROLE THROUGHOUT THE SEMINAR. AN EMBASSY SOURCE CLOSE TO DONA KAREN REPORTED THAT AMBASSADOR DAZIMIROV CONTINUED TO PROTEST PERSONALLY (KAZIMIROV WAS SAID TO HAVE SENT A NOTE OF PROTEST LAST WEEK TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OVER THE SEMINAR BEING PATRONIZED BY DONA KAREN) TO THE COSTA RICAN FIRST LADY, AND SO ANGERED HER THAT SHE UPBRAIDED HIM ON THE TELEPHONE ONE APRIL 21 FOR BEHAVING IN AN UNDIPLOMATIC AND DISCOURTEOUS FASHION, AND THEN PROCEEDED TO SPEAK DEPRECATINGLY OF HIM TO HER FRIENDS.

3. IT IS UNLIKELY THERE WILL BE ANY LONG TERM EFFECT FROM THIS INCIDENT, ESPECIALLY SO AS THE FIGUERES' LEAVE OFFICE IN TWO WEEKS.

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